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Sent: Sunday, May 15, 2011 3:09 PM
To: 'janderson@podsta.com'
Subject: albanian elections

Greeting all, and forgive the interruption. As I think you know, I help the government of Albania with its international media outreach. This email is on background -- but most of the information can be found publically anyway.

I would urge you all to show caution in reporting the final election results out of Albania. Everybody wants to call a race -- and everybody wants to be the first to do so -- but the Central Election Commission is the authority, and they have NOT declared a winner yet. Yes, it has been a long, slow process. But it has been an extraordinary one, too. I hope you got a chance Sunday to watch as the votes were counted on TV 5, which was streamed live around the world. This was an amazingly open and transparent exercise in democracy. As a reporter, I covered elections from the US to Tehran , France to Baghdad, and I don't recall ever seeing anything quite like the live shots from the gymnasium where ballot boxes were stacked in plain view, and counters and commissioners tallied the votes one-by-one while dozens of monitors, journalists, ambassadors and others sat on the sidelines and watched.

Don't get swept up in an emotional rush to judgment -- the tabulation is still underway. The OSCE ambassador said "Democracy has won;" I think it would be wise to let the process play itself out. Cheers....John Anderson/Podesta

The Podesta Group provides representation to the Government of Albania. Additional information can be found on file at the US Justice Department.

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